



February/March 2013 Newsletter

Director's Message

I mentioned in January's newsletter that we had completed an assessment survey of our services, standards, policies and procedures. The results from that survey, as well as the results from the POST Training survey, have been summarized in the newsletter. These two surveys have been helpful in gaining a perspective of region needs for the upcoming grant applications.

One area that has been mentioned several times in both surveys is the lack of a minimum in-service training standard. Following initial certification, there is no state requirement for additional training (other than DNA and Anti-Bias for provisional candidates). I am a strong proponent of officer safety. With that, I believe updates in perishable skills are critical. I will be working with several organizations and others to identify in-service training needs and prepare a recommendation for the POST Board regarding this issue.

Many agencies are not aware that their training needs should be directed to their training region. I encourage agency heads to make their training needs known to their region as soon as possible. Regions will be submitting grant proposals by April 19th with review by the Grant Subcommittee in May. Please take advantage of this opportunity to provide in-service training to your personnel. Remember there is mandated School Resource Officer (SRO) training that must be completed by January 1, 2015. That curriculum should be completed this summer.

A special note of thanks goes to the members of our Subject Matter Expert (SME) Committees. They are constantly discussing issues and tactics to better train peace officers. We could not do this, inspect academies and evaluate skills test

outs if not for thee dedicated men and women. You can learn more about the committees and their members on our website.

Upcoming Important Peace Officer Training Program (Grant) Dates

- ✓ 4/19/2013 Application Due Date
- ✓ 5/22/2013 Grant Subcommittee Application Review
- ✓ 6/14/2013 POST Board Funding Approval
- ✓ 6/21/2013 Awards Made
- ✓ 6/21/2013 Contract Sent to Grantee
- ✓ 7/1/2013 FY2014 Grant Cycle Begins

The Peace Officer Training Program (POTP) guidelines were introduced to the POST Board on March 1st. As a draft, they served as the focal point of a Grant Manager's Workshop on March 6th. Comments from the workshop will be reviewed by the POST Grant Subcommittee in early April. The Subcommittee will make a recommendation to the POST Board. The Board will do an email vote shortly thereafter and results will be announced. The guidelines will be posted to the POST website and distributed to the grant regions at the same time.

March POST Board Meeting

The POST Board and SME Committees met on March 1st at the Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center. Some highlights from the meeting:

- Attorney General John Suthers recognized and thanked Chief Heather Coogan of Littleton and FBI Special Agent in Charge James Yacone for their service to the Board. Chief Coogan, on the Board since 2008, represented the Board on the Driving Committee. She is retiring April 1st. SAC Yacone has been on the Board since 2011 and represented the Board on the Firearms Committee. SAC Yacone has been reassigned to Quantico, Virginia as the assistant director of the Critical Incident Response Group (CIRG). We wish them both the best in the future and thank them for their dedicated service.
- Chief Mark Beckner of Boulder will replace Chief Coogan on the Grant Subcommittee.

- Program and rule changes can be submitted more frequently during the year. There are submission deadlines approximately four months prior to the next Board meeting. This should make for a timelier implementation of any change.
- Six certifications were revoked based on criminal convictions.

A draft of the meeting minutes will be posted on the POST website soon.

POST Surveys

POST has conducted three internet surveys in the past two months.

The first stakeholder survey was the POST Assessment Survey. This survey was conducted in January 2013 and was sent to POST Board members, SME Committee members, Academy Directors, selected Academy Training staff and grant region managers and providers. A common assessment tool (SWOT- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) was used for the survey. T

The conclusions developed from that survey were that POST could improve in communication, provide clear and consistent grant guidelines, institute a mandatory in-service training requirement, develop an interactive real time database, take advantage of new technology and provide additional training programs.

The second survey was the POST Training Survey. This survey was conducted in February 2013 and was sent to Chiefs, Marshals, Sheriffs, District Attorneys, Coroners and other agency heads. This survey inquired about agency and staff training needs, in-service training and training delivery.

The conclusions from the training survey were similar to the first survey. Requests for additional training, an in-service training requirement and more funding for training were frequent responses. Additionally, the needs of small and rural agencies were pointed out as different in some cases compared to larger agencies. It was apparent that the Peace Officer Training Program (POTP) was not understood statewide and marketing is needed to bring this program to the attention of more agencies. For example, many respondents asked POST to

conduct training courses when it's the grant regions that should identify and manage the training needs of the agencies within them.

The third survey was sent to evaluate the POST subscription to the Law Enforcement Training Network (LETN). In 2012, POST identified 36 small agencies that could benefit from online training and provided a one year subscription.

It was clear that few users frequented this site more than 4 times and several chiefs and sheriffs were not aware of the subscription. While many liked the idea of online training, this product was not contemporary in several areas. The subscription ended in February 2013.

POST Certification Test Update

We continue to work with our vendor in preparation of field testing the new items, starting in April. In March, POST convened a group of 11 subject matter experts to review nearly 200 revised items.

We will be field testing the revised items over the next few months with academies prior to the actual certification test. Following the field test, we should have a better timeline on implementing the tests online.

Provisional Certifications/Test Outs

At the two-day test out at Denver Police Department's Academy facilities, March 18-19, fifteen people obtained full certification (were provisionally certified) and two people renewed their certification.

The next two day test out is May 23/24th. Contact Compliance Officer Tom Mullen at (720) 508-6724 for more information.

Legislation

The Elder Abuse Reporting Bill, SB 13-111, passed through the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 20th. We will continue to monitor the bill as it has a mandatory training element.

The Dog Protection Act, SB 13-226, is scheduled for the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 3rd. This bill calls for local law enforcement agencies to develop training and provide education to minimize dog shootings. A task force will develop the minimum curriculum for agencies to follow, with a minimum of three hours of training. POST is currently excluded from this legislation but we will monitor it.

Sunrise Review Update

We reported in the January newsletter that the Fort Carson Police and United States Secret Service were going through the legislative process to obtain peace officer status. The House General Assembly has approved both organizations for this status and the bills will eventually go to Governor Hickenlooper for signature.

Next POST Board Meeting: June 14, 2013, 10:00 am.

Ralph L. Carr Judicial Center
1300 Broadway, 1st Floor-Denver CO

SME Committees meet at 8 am.